Library Science
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HAWAII LIBRARY ASSOCIATION JOURNAL

P. O. Box 3916
Honolulu 12, Hawaii

October 1948 Editor: Edith Irwin
Vol.5, No.3

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GREETINGS
to
THE H. L. A. MEMBERS
at
THE FALL MEETING
on
OCTOBER 16, 1948

Did you know that the Hawaii Library Association has been functioning for twenty-six years? And all those years its membership has been representative of all the types of libraries that are in the Islands-- public, school and special libraries.

The first meeting of Hawaiian Island librarians was held at the pavilion of the Young Hotel on November 15, 1921, at the invitation of Miss Edna Allyn, Librarian of the Library of Hawaii. On January 16, 1922, a formal meeting was held, and the Constitution of the Hawaii Library Association was established. The first officers of the H.L.A. were: President, Miss Hemingway of the University of Hawaii; Vice-President, Miss Margaret Newman of Hilo; Secretaries, Miss Purdy of McKinley and Miss Robson (Laura Robson Sutherland) of the Library of Hawaii; and Treasurer, Miss Higgins of Punahou.

Most of the earlier meetings were concerned with the discussion of activities and problems of the various libraries. Members gave reports and speeches on subjects of interest to librarians, and frequently reports on the A.L.A. conventions were given by our librarian members who attended. The Hawaii Library Association was affiliated with the American Library Association in 1924.

The membership of the H.L.A. proves the growth and importance of library service to the Hawaiian Islands. In 1924 there were 20 members; in 1941 there were 69; and now, in 1948, there are 82 members.

The H.L.A. has had many well-known people as its guests and speakers. Among these were Padraic Colum, Christopher Morley, Mr. B.B. Futernick, and Mr. Bradford Smith; local personages have included Wallace R. Farrington, Mr. Willowdean C. Handy, Dr. Gregg Sinclair, Dr. Stanley Porteus, and many others. Our membership has held its meetings at many places--from members' homes to the Royal Hawaiian, Waialae Golf Club, Mabel Smythe Memorial, Kamehameha Schools, University of Hawaii, Waioli Tea-Room. The fact that we have progressed from "a sociable cup of tea" twenty-five years ago to a large dinner at Queen's Surf last night, with Harry and Bonaro Overstreet as guests, means something, doesn't it?

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
GENERAL LIBRARY

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THE SALARY QUESTION

--- An anonymous contribution

Librarians are always squawking that they are underpaid; it is an idea as old and as firmly established as the Pythagorean theorem. What about it -- are we to continue feebly repeating this moldy platitude, or can we really do something constructive? I propose that we begin at the beginning and re-examine the basis of our claims.

First, by what standard are we underpaid? The minimum subsistence standard? I think not. Few librarians are seen wandering homeless through the streets, clothed in rags, moaning with the pangs of hunger. No, librarians do subsist, and subsist rather well.

Perhaps our salaries are low compared to the salaries of other workers? Let us compare our work with the work of others. Do we work harder than coal miners, drill-press operators, cooks, bricklayers, automobile mechanics? Maybe the rest of you do; I do not. Is our work more unpleasant than other work, like garbage collecting or sewer cleaning? Now I ask you.

But what about the long expensive education required for our profession? Piffle. Many a vacuum cleaner salesman has been to college too. Personally, I had a hell of a good time in college, and I consider a hell of a good time its own reward. Nobody owes me a cent on that score.

Well, perhaps what librarians do is more valuable than what other people do; perhaps it is our social contribution that rates better pay. Okay, what do we do? We select and purchase books, with the taxpayers' money; the taxpayers in general do not like books, and only crackpots and bored school children use them. We catalog and classify the books, and no one can make head or tail of the catalog or find the books. We maintain large reference collections, and use them to answer "reference questions" which settle many bets and solve many crossword puzzles. We manufacture bibliographies, which even we do not like. Also at intervals we annoy the public with requests for silence.

But this is a poor narrow view to take; after all, the broader purpose of a library is to preserve and distribute knowledge and ideas. At the present stage of the world's history, however, even this seems like a distinctly dubious enterprise. Without ideas we would have no political arguments, high explosives, debating societies, prejudices, modern poetry, psychosomatic medicine, fashion changes, or lawyers. Life could be beautiful.

My dear colleagues, I am afraid we are grossly overpaid! Let us keep very quiet about it all, lest a public investigation end by giving us the salaries we deserve.

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LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

Hawaii County Library by Carol Brice

The new building for the central library in Hilo is still our most exciting activity. The foundations are all in, the shapes and sizes of rooms are materializing and the decorative stone work across the front of the building has been begun.

The Kona Branch Library at Kealakekua, one of our three largest, has recently expanded from one room to two in the school building which is serving until a new one is built. It is still far from adequate in equipment and efficiency, but the additional space makes working with the collection much easier for Mrs. Frances Cushingham, the custodian.

Mrs. Welsh, Librarian, is in California, on a long-delayed vacation. She left Hilo early in August and will return in October.

Mrs. Don Johnson, Children's Librarian, who has been on maternity leave since January, has resigned and moved to Honolulu with her husband and young son.

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Maui County Free Library by Betty Whitmarsh

The Maui County Free Library welcomes the return of two former staff members. Mrs. Eleanor Harmon White has come back to the position of Children's Librarian which she left nine years ago. In the interval Mrs. White was at the Kauai Public Library, the New York Public Library and the Prince Georges Memorial Library in Maryland.

Mrs. Raymond Bista has rejoined the Maui County Library staff as Clerk-Typist after an absence of two years. She replaces Mrs. George Stender who recently moved to Honolulu to be with her family.

A new station of the Maui County Library was opened early in the summer in the village of Haliimaile. Mrs. Theodore Schulz, the regular custodian at the Makawao Branch, is in charge. The station has been so successful that it will be continued through the school year.

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University of Hawaii by Helen Bevens

Priscilla Griffey Harpham has resigned, to take care of her husband, two cats, puppy, and house on Tantalus. Margaret Lawrence has left us to join the staff at Punahou.

New arrivals on our staff are Dorothy McAlister, Dorothy Redenbach, and Oi-yung Chow. Miss Redenbach is a recent graduate of Simmons College in Boston; Mrs. Chow has been with the American Library in Shanghai.

The library is to remain open Saturday afternoons while school is in session.

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LIBRARY ACTIVITIES--Cont.

Kauai Public Library by Thelma Hadley

Insurance companies are going to enter librarians as a bad risk if the staff at the Kauai Public Library have any more accidents. We have just had our fourth serious casualty, with Lucille Moore, our reference and publicity assistant, the victim this time. Miss Moore has been in the Queen's hospital recovering from a spinal operation. No one can see how it happened, but she was helping the janitor move a table after the art show and snapped a vertabra out of place. This caused a pressure on the nerves which was so painful that an operation was found necessary. This accident certainly caused a grand rush by the rest of the staff to sign up 100% for the new medical plan, because you never know who is going to be next around here.

The art show which was back of all this was the gala event of the year for the library. Raymond C. Hill, professor of painting at the University of Washington, was discovered spending the summer on Kauai painting the most ravishing water colors of our scenic beauties. The famous local columnist, Kamaka o Kauai, persuaded him to put on an exhibition of his paintings, for which we offered the library. Our main reading room was transformed, seemingly by magic but with much perspiration, with lauhala mats covering the face of the stacks and forming a background for a towering hala tree and a magnificent arrangement of driftwood draped with fish net and decorated with shells, glass floats and other nautical and marine objects. Amidst this tropical setting we displayed about two dozen paintings. Mr. Hill donated two of his pictures to be auctioned for the local Kalaupapa leper fund, and together with donations dropped in the calabash and the auction of the fruit and flowers used in the decorations, we collected $550 for the fund. The show was a great success and we hope it will be only the first of many to come.

The latest addition to our professional staff is Bertonia Hoyler of Akron, Ohio, our new children's librarian who arrived on the last Lurline before the strike. Our children's department has been without a librarian ever since Julia Szinkunas' sudden departure in February. Miss Hoyler is a graduate of Mr. Holyoke, Mass., and took her library training at Columbia. She has worked in the children's department of New York Public Library, served in the Marine Corps Woman's Reserve during the war, and was in the children's department in Akron when she answered our ad in the Library Journal. Miss Hoyler likes to move around, and has determined never to stay on any job long enough to grow stale.

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USARPAC Libraries by Louise Grove

Personal notes: Miss Eve Davis, formerly at Wheeler Field Air Force Base, is now librarian of Aiea Naval Hospital...Miss Genevieve Friday, Field Section supervisor returned from a tour of duty at Kwajelein, is enjoying a vacation at her home in Waukesha, Wisconsin, before departing for her Eighth Army job in Japan...The Command Librarian, Miss Dorothea Surtees, is on a supervising trip to some of our forward bases...Mrs. Ellen Myers Underwood, formerly Hospital Librarian at Tripler General Hospital writes that she and her husband are settled at Maxwell Field, Alabama, and, since it seems impossible for her to stop being a librarian, she is working in the catalog section of the Air University Library there.

Library Headquarters at Fort Shafter has been busy processing a thousand volume library for Johnston Island. Tripler Hospital had its big moving prior to the dedication, but the library is not yet in its permanent quarters. However, we envy them the yummy new look furniture in their temporary reading room, and also Mrs. Coffman's attractive and clever flower arrangements... All Army libraries are busy with helpful exhibits for the All Service Personnel Photography contest...

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LIBRARY ACTIVITIES--Cont.

Library of Hawaii by Ruth W. Fung

Miss Lois Jones, recently of the Catalog Department, is now at the Los Angeles Public Library in the Literature Department.

Miss Thelma Passo, head of Reference, resigned October 1 to take a position nearer home. She plans to travel leisurely to Chicago, reaching home in Minnesota about November 1. Miss Virginia Crozier will assume her duties in the Reference Department.

Mrs. Dorothy McAlister left the Reference Department to accept a position as a cataloger at the University of Hawaii.

Mrs. Alice Alexander, who resigned from the library in 1946, became a member of the Reference Department on August 16.

Several new librarians have arrived during the past few months. On August 2, Miss Mary Mason, children's librarian from the Rose City Branch of the Portland Library started her work in the Edna Allyn Room. Mr. Robert Gahran, recent graduate of Pratt Institute Library School and former staff member of the Brooklyn Public Library is the new periodicals librarian. Mrs. Louise Cocroft, also from the Brooklyn Public Library, arrived September 22 to be the publicity librarian. Miss Genevieve Carlton joined the Reference Department on September 7th. She came from the North Phoenix High School Library, Phoenix, Arizona.

Mrs. Myrtle Mattison reports that the new Kalihi-Palama Branch Library will be completed by the end of the year.

Upon the resignation of Mrs. Laura Sutherland, the Extension Department was divided. All adult work will be under Mrs. Mable Jackson, Assistant Librarian, with Miss Suzanne Starr in charge of adult work with branches and stations. Miss Susan Taylor is now Director of Work with Boys and Girls and will be in charge of all work with children. Miss Elisabeth Carey is librarian in charge of children's extension work and Miss Elsie McDonald is senior assistant in the children's division.

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THE EDITORIAL POSTSCRIPT

There's nothing like a postscript to round out the news! For instance, Miss Label Fraser has returned from her wonderful "Stateside" trip--she reports that she saw Martha Wright Weber in California. Mrs. Weber, who used to work with Miss Fraser in the HSPA library, is now a librarian in the Glendale Public Library... Mrs. Jean Brundage of the Hawaiian Pineapple Research has been having a vacation on the mainland... Mrs. Clarissa Halstead, formerly of Punahou School library, is now librarian at Kamehameha Preparatory School. Miss Frances Kenyon replaces Mrs. Halstead as librarian at Punahou. Miss Margaret Lawrence is a new member of the staff there... Our best wishes to Mrs. George Fung, formerly Ruth Wong, of the Edna Allyn Room, Library of Hawaii.